

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A switching mechanism of a lens barrel includes a stationary barrel having a stop groove; a lens holding ring, a distance adjustment ring and an AF/MF switching
5 ring, each positioned concentrically with the stationary barrel. The AF/MF switching ring is prevented from rotating relative to the stationary barrel by engagement of the engaging member with the stop groove while a driving force is transferred from a power source to the distance
10 adjustment ring to move the lens holding ring along the optical axis when the AF/MF switching ring is in the AF position. Rotation of the AF/MF switching ring is transferred to the distance adjustment ring to move the lens holding ring along the optical axis while the driving
15 force is prevented from being transferred from the power source to the distance adjustment ring when the AF/MF switching ring is in the MF position.